

HomeStand

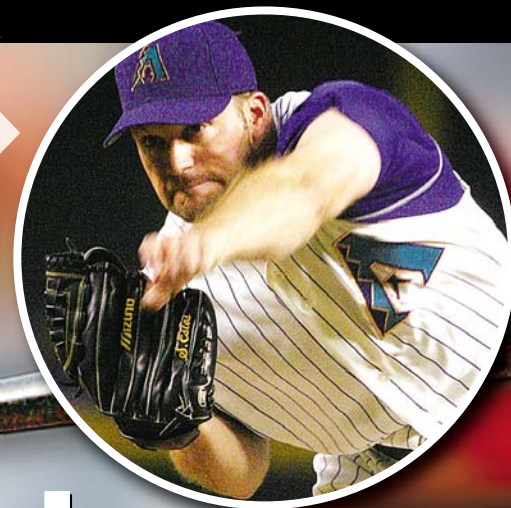
WASHINGTON'S UNOFFICIAL GAME GUIDE

>> **FREE** <<
express

A publication of *The Washington Post*

April 14 - 17, 2005 | Washington Nationals vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Arizona Rebuilt: →
Reshuffled roster
has Diamondbacks
optimistic | 11



Back in Full Swing

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a team longing for fans | 4

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REUTERS



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(off the) Field

5 Minutes with: Termell Sledge

OUTFIELDER Termell Sledge, who as a rookie last year led the Expos by hitting .337 with runners in scoring position, drove in the Nationals' first run of the season, in the opener in Philadelphia. Two innings later he hit the franchise's first home run.

When did you first know you wanted to be a major league baseball player?

Thirteen years old. It was the first time I started playing baseball. I dreamed about being in the major leagues. I was a New York Mets fan. I dreamt for half my life that I was going to be in this position and I'm here now.

What would you want to be if you weren't a baseball player?

A real estate agent. I really like investing money in a more secure way than stocks or anything like that.

What's your favorite thing to do when you're not thinking about baseball?

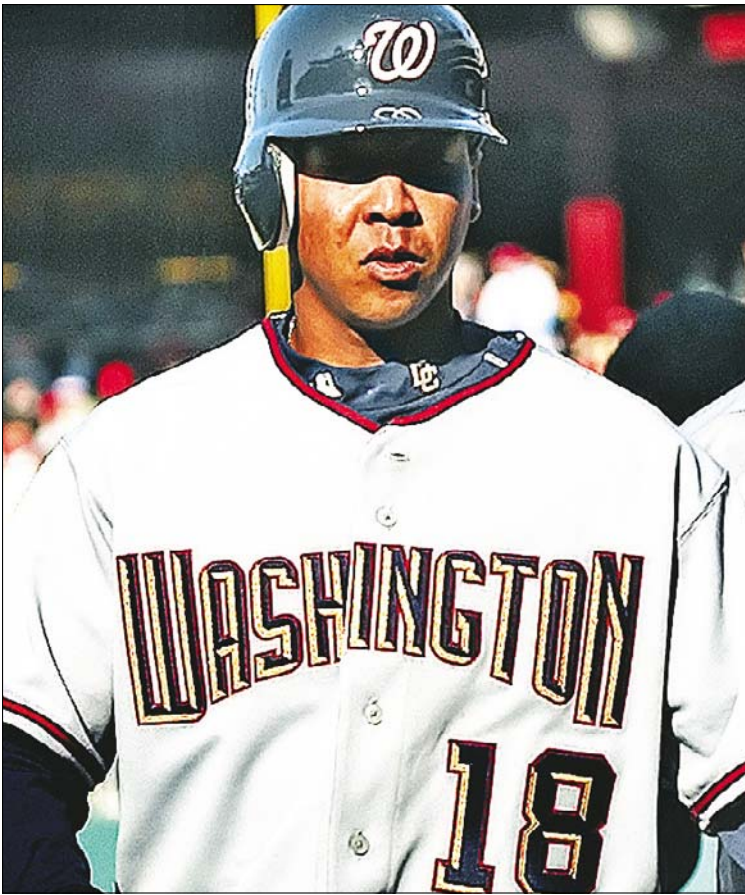
I'm a video game freak. All the sport games, but MVP Baseball is my favorite and John Madden football too.

If you could be commissioner for a day, what's the first thing you'd do?

Ooh, that's a tough one. I'll take a pass on that.

What's one intricacy of the game that most fans don't notice when they come to the park?

The importance of moving over a runner. You have a man on second and no outs. A ground ball to the right side is going to move the runner over to third. It's the little things that go unnoticed.



"A grand slam in the big leagues. It was a great feeling."

What's your most embarrassing moment in baseball?

It happened last year in Philadelphia. It was almost half-way through the year. You know the Philly fans are pretty blunt. They yelled out, "Sledge, who are you?" I just turned around and laughed.

What's your most satisfying moment in baseball?

My first grand slam. It was in Pro Player Stadium. I hit a grand slam off [Josias] Manzanillo [now with Cincinnati]. Yeah, a grand slam in the big leagues. It was a great feeling.

Can you describe the feeling?

It was more of a tingling sensation that went from my head all the way to my toes until I crossed home plate. I was thinking, "I'm finally here. I made it." GARY KARTON

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	TB	SB	CS	SF	SH	HBP	SLG	AVG
137	407	47	109	20	6	16	65	42	189	4	3	1	6	11	.464	.268

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Washington Nationals | ACTIVE ROSTER



19 Ryan Church

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.200	1	1	.200



7 Brad Wilkerson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.440	1	3	.481



6 Jose Guillen

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.333	2	3	.333



15 Cristian Guzman

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.130	0	0	.200



3 Jose Vidro

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.231	1	3	.222



9 Vinny Castilla

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.364	1	3	.417



24 Nick Johnson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.278	0	2	.458

BENCH	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
77 Carlos Baerga	.000	0	0	.000
29 Gary Bennett	.000	0	0	.000
28 Tony Blanco	.333	0	0	.333
2 Jamey Carroll	1.000	0	0	1.000
26 J.J. Davis	.250	0	0	.250
18 Terrmel Sledge	.222	1	3	.364



23 Brian Schneider

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.200	0	0	.273

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The Nationals have already tweaked their roster because of injuries:

- Backup infielder **Wil Cordero** was placed on the 15-day disabled with a knee injury.
- **Tony Armas Jr.**, projected to be the team's No. 2 starter, began the year on the disabled list with a strained groin.
- Outfielder **Ryan Church** started the first four games on the bench recovering from a groin injury.



← **Manager** Frank Robinson
IB Coach Don Buford
Hitting Coach Tom McCraw

Bench Coach Eddie Rodriguez
Pitching Coach Randy St. Claire
3B Coach Dave Huppert

Starting Pitchers

Livan Hernandez | 61

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	5.40	8	1.37



Esteban Loaiza | 21

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	5.40	4	1.20

Zach Day | 54

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	4.76	3	1.06

Tomo Ohka | 34

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	4.50	2	1.00

22 John Patterson

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	2.57	6	1.00

The Bullpen

Chad Cordero | 32

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-0	1.80	5	1.00



Joey Eischen | 58

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	7.71	0	2.14

Luis Ayala | 56

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	2	0.00

59 Joe Horgan

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	1	3.00

Antonio Osuna | 13

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	42.43	0	6.86

52 T.J. Tucker

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	0	1.50

(From the Editor)

One of the first things I noticed after moving here from Boston a few years ago was a distinct difference in the summer air — and it wasn't just the humidity.

Something was missing, a void that made summer here feel unlike the summers I'd been used to.

What was missing, I realized, was baseball.

In cities like Boston, Chicago and New York — places where Opening Day is an excused absence from work — baseball floats through the summer air like a breeze, making it possible for fans to take in a game almost by osmosis.

Stop in to a convenience store on game day and you'll get the score along with your change. Pass a restaurant with its windows open and you'll learn if your team's ace is having a good game or bad. Hop a cab and by the time you reach your destination you'll know not just who's winning but how your cabbie's personal coaching philosophy would have brought your city a World Series 10 years ago.

In D.C., I noticed, baseball was a more solitary pleasure.

Baseball has a way of binding a city together. It's something everyone has in common no matter how different they otherwise may be.

In D.C., I noticed, baseball was a more solitary pleasure. Transplants waited for a chance to see their hometown teams on TV and then watched at home. Or they'd hunt down a sports bar where the game was on in hopes of finding a few kindred spirits. Natives might adopt another city's team (note the sudden proliferation of Red Sox hats last fall), but those bonds are shallow and easily broken.

All that is about to change. With the arrival

of the Nationals, Washingtonians now have a team of their own to root for, and already a transformation is under way. Strangers can be overheard chatting, however awkwardly, about their new team — "Did you see Wilkerson hit for the cycle the other night? ... Or was it Vidro? ... No, wait, it was Wilkerson."

HomeStand, published by Express Publications LLC, is Washington's unofficial guide to the Nationals' season. Published once a week for each of the team's home stands, this free guide will bring you into the dugout to get you up to speed on both your new team and each of its opponents.

It's the start of a new era. The national pastime is back in the nation's capital. We hope HomeStand helps you make the most of it.

Baseball is in the air once again.

Enjoy the game. DAN CACCABARO

A Perfect Match

A city long deprived of the national pastime embraces the team that nobody loved

D.C. LOBBYIST Murray Chanow will never forget his first major league baseball game.

When he was just 3, his dad walked out on him, his mother and his sister. A few years later, his grandfather, Sam, took him to see the Philadelphia Phillies at Veterans Stadium.

"We sat in the upper deck and it was pretty cool because it was just me and him," Chanow recalled. "It was something a normal father and son would do. It made me feel better."

Chanow, 34, now has a chance to introduce his own children to professional baseball, and he's going to make a day out of it. He's picking up his two young sons, Sam, 4, and Tobe, 2, early from preschool in Tyson's Corner

"It's great to know that people have your back."

and driving a mile and a half to "kidnap" his wife, Linda, from her law firm. Then with the whole gang decked out in Nats hats and shirts, they'll hop on the Metro and head to the first opening day game in Washington in 34 years.

"We're going to be there right when the gates open," said Chanow, who swears he was rooting for the Nationals when they met the Phillies in the season's opening series. "This is a historic

moment, and I don't want to miss a second of it. It's my job to make sure my kids know how to go crazy for the home team. It's a responsibility I'm going to take very seriously."

All the support will be a welcome change for the Nationals, who last year as the Montreal Expos routinely played in front of Olympic Stadium crowds so sparse that a fan sitting behind the third base dugout could have a conversation with another fan sitting behind the first base dugout. Three of the team's "home stands" were actually played in Puerto Rico, making it difficult for the team to settle into a routine.

"We felt like we weren't like the rest of the ball clubs," said manager Frank Robinson. "Some people just don't understand really what a drain it was. You're living at a hotel, you're living out of a suitcase, you're eating at restaurants all the time. Mentally, it took its toll."

As a result of the lack of fan support, all the travel and several key injuries — including chicken pox — the team struggled, losing 95 games. They were 10 games under .500 at home, including 7-14 in Puerto Rico.

So on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2004, when



PLEASED TO MEET YOU: Outfielder Brad Wilkerson signs autographs for enthusiastic Nats fans during spring training.

Major League Baseball announced that the nation's capital would be its choice for the relocation for the Montreal Expos, the soon-to-be Nationals were just as thrilled as the baseball faithful in D.C.

"It's great to know that people have your back," said outfielder Ryan Church. "You wake up in the morning and you're going to come out to a place where people are excited to watch you play. And I think that's big. They're part of the team."

"The players, I think unconsciously, play harder when they have the fans out there rooting for them," said Robinson. "You don't want to disappoint them. It's a big difference."

"The mixture of being at home for 81 games and the fans at the park is going to bring a lot of energy to the ball park," outfield Brad Wilkerson agreed.

It's an energy that many fans, like Chanow, have been waiting to be part of for a long time.

"My entire goal for the day is to entertain the kids so they want to come back again," said Chanow, who concedes he's willing to spend whatever it takes on popcorn, cotton candy and soft pretzels.

"Having a team back in D.C. means so much because it's a way I can introduce my own sons to something that meant so much to me when I was a kid." GARY KARTON

While We Were Sleeping ...

A LOT CAN HAPPEN in 34 years, as fans who waited for baseball to return to Washington know all too well. For anyone who took a break from America's pastime, here's a recap of the highlights — and low-lights — between 1971 and 2005, when baseball went dark in D.C. >>

'74 | Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run, passing Babe Ruth on the all-time list. Aaron would retire with 755 homers.

'75 | Frank Robinson becomes the first African-American manager when he takes over the Cleveland Indians.

'75 | Red Sox catcher Carlton Fisk waves his home run fair in Game 6 of the World Series against



the Cincinnati Reds, setting Boston fans up for a great fall in Game 7.

'78 | Yankees shortstop Bucky "bleeping" Dent hits a home run to beat the Red Sox in a one-game playoff for the AL East title. The angst continues in Boston.

'85 | Pete Rose gets his 4,192nd base hit*, passing Ty Cobb on the all-time list.

'86 | Red Sox fans, avert



*'88 | A'roided out Jose Canseco becomes the first player to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases in the same season.

'88 | Kirk Gibson comes off the bench to hit a

your eyes. ... With Boston one out from winning the World Series, Bill Buckner somehow lets a ground ball roll between his legs in Game 6 vs. the Mets. New York wins the series in Game 7. Somewhere, Babe Ruth's ghost laughs.

ninth-inning home run off Dennis Eckersley in Game 1 of the World Series, propelling the L.A. Dodgers to a series win over the Oakland A's.

'89 | Commissioner Bart Giamatti bars Pete Rose from

continued on page 10

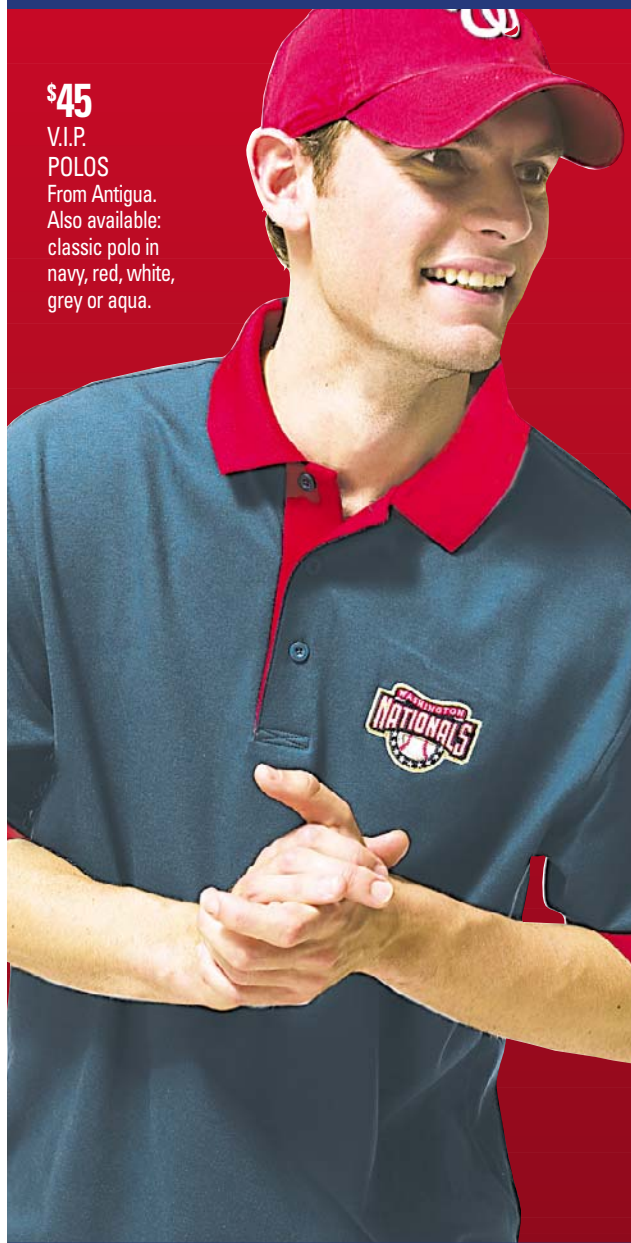
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Arizona Diamondbacks | ACTIVE ROSTER



20 Luis Gonzalez

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.444	2	5	.565



22 Jose Cruz Jr.

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.294	2	7	.400



15 Shawn Green

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.263	1	4	.417



10 Royce Clayton

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.222	0	1	.263



4 Craig Counsell

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.389	0	1	.560



25 Troy Glaus

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.286	3	7	.348



18 Chad Tracy

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.471	1	3	.444

BENCH				
	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
12 Alex Cintron	.250	0	1	.200
34 Tony Clark	.444	1	2	.444
11 Matt Kata	.000	0	0	.000
6 Q. McCracken	.400	0	0	.400
19 Chris Snyder	.417	1	2	.462
27 Luis Terrero	.000	0	0	.000



5 Koyie Hill

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.125	0	2	.111

OUTSIDE THE LINES

After a 51-111 season last year, Arizona imported several new players for the 2005 campaign:

- Starting pitcher **Javier Vazquez** and reliever **Brad Halsey** came in a deal that sent Randy Johnson to the Yankees.
- Starting right fielder **Shawn Green** was acquired in a trade with the L.A. Dodgers for several minor leaguers.
- Pitchers **Russ Ortiz** and **Shawn Estes** were signed as free agents.



← **Manager** Bob Melvin
1B Coach Brett Butler
Hitting Coach Mike Aldrete

Bench Coach Jay Bell
Pitching Coach Mark Davis
3B Coach Carlos Tosca

Starting Pitchers

Javier Vazquez | 23

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-1 15.43 9 2.57



Brandon Webb | 17

W-L ERA K WHIP
1-0 3.38 2 1.50

Russ Ortiz | 48

W-L ERA K WHIP
1-0 3.27 4 1.55

Shawn Estes | 55

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 6.00 3 1.50

37 Brad Halsey

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 4.50 2 1.50

The Bullpen

Brandon Lyon | 38

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-1 0.00 4 1.50



76 Mike Koplove

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 2.08 1 .69

56 Oscar Villarreal

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 0.00 1 1.20

30 Brian Bruney

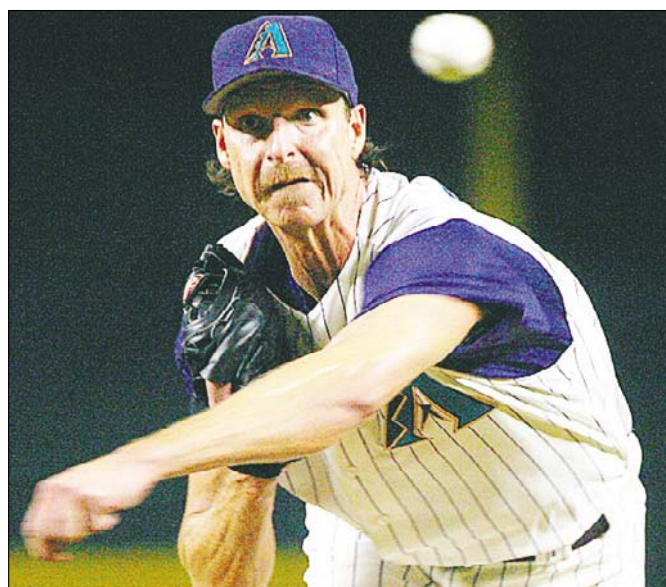
W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 4.15 3 1.38

Randy Choate | 21

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-0 9.00 1 2.00

44 Mike Gosling

W-L ERA K WHIP
0-1 15.00 1 2.67



The Dearly Departed

Arizona is still mourning key losses from its line-up

IT MUST SEEM LIKE eons ago to Arizona fans that their Diamondbacks upset the New York Yankees to win the World Series.

But it was only 2001.

What a difference a few years can make. The core of that team now is either retired or playing elsewhere. And it may be quite a while before the Diamondbacks fill the void left by staff aces Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson,

<< GREENER PASTURES: After the Diamondbacks' worst season in franchise history, ace Randy Johnson found New York appealing.

who shared MVP honors after the '01 World Series.

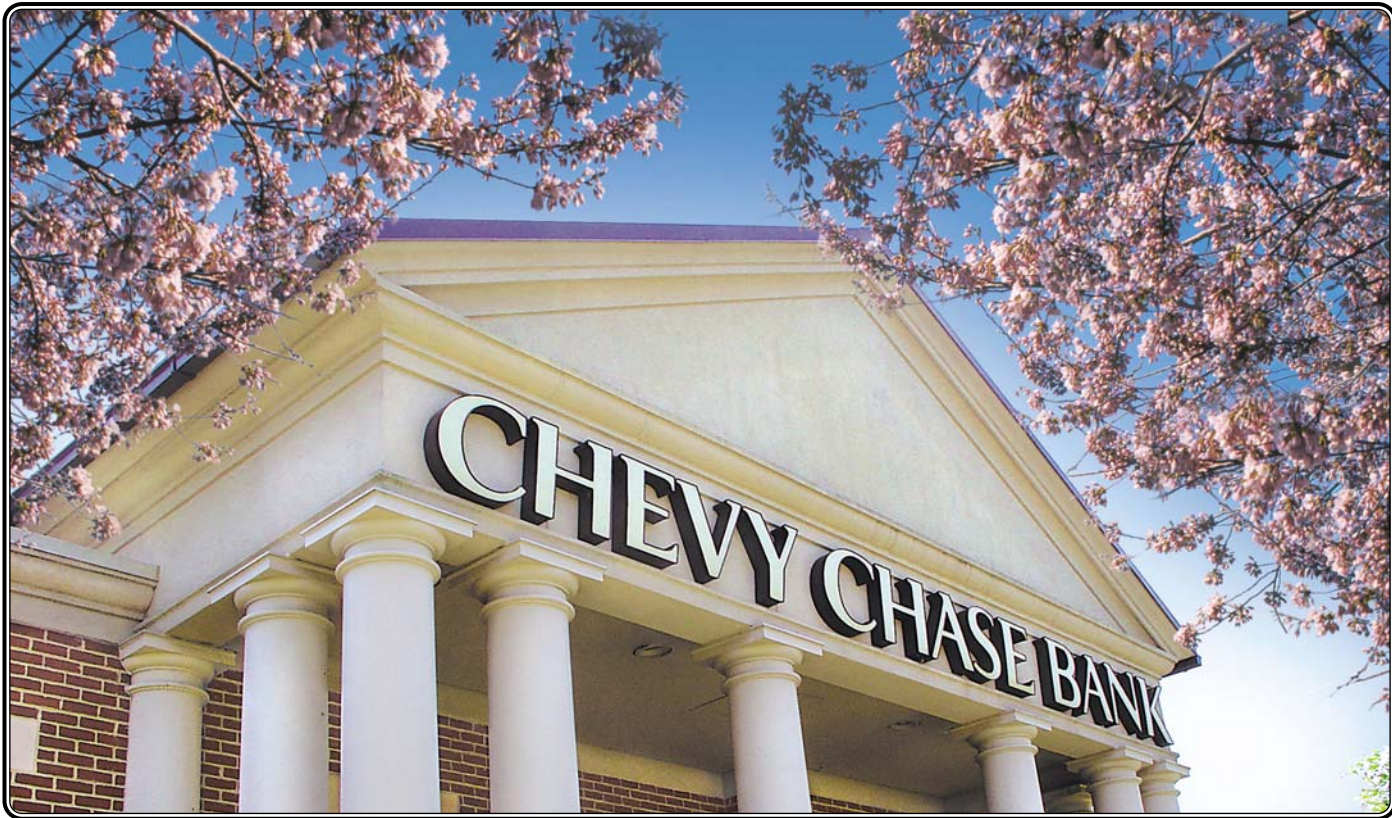
Schilling was, of course, sent to Boston last year, where he and his bloody sock are now as big a part of local lore as Paul Revere and his midnight ride.

The Diamondbacks, meanwhile, were on their way to a 51-111 record — the worst in the franchise's seven-year history. Not coincidentally, Bob Brenly, the manager of the 2001 champions, was canned mid-season.

Also not coincidentally, Johnson decided it was time to become a Yankee after the dismal '04 campaign.

The lone holdovers from Arizona's glory years are Alex Cintron, Craig Counsell — who left in 2004 but has since returned — and Luis Gonzalez, who got the game-winning hit against Mariano Rivera in Game 7 of the World Series. **MATT SWENSON**

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		Team: <i>Washington Nationals</i> vs																
Date:		Start Time:					End Time:					Time of Game:						
Scorer:																		
#	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	E	
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U	Hits												AB:		RBI:			
M	Errors												R:		E:			
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:			
Pitcher		W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher				PB	



Team:			vs															
Date:			Start Time:					End Time:					Time of Game:					
Scorer:																		
#	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	E	
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U	Hits												AB:		RBI:			
M	Errors												R:		E:			
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:			
Pitcher		W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher				PB	

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Applying the Finish

Diamondbacks, Nationals rely on young closers to seal the deal in the ninth

A GOOD CLOSER, Nationals Manager Frank Robinson says, has to be right on the edge of insanity. Arizona General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr. says a closer is like a field goal kicker. He must come into a game after two and a half hours and perform with the outcome hanging in the balance.

"That's probably the most difficult job in baseball," said Robinson. "It's like you're walking on a tight rope without a net. I don't envy these guys being closers."

No matter how you look at it, both teams rely on young closers who will likely be a key to the match-up as the Diamondbacks

play the Nationals in the first home series in D.C. in 34 years.

The Diamondbacks will rely on 25-year-old Brandon Lyon, whom Arizona acquired, among other players, from the Boston Red Sox in exchange for ace Curt Schilling.

Lyon had an injury-plagued inaugural season with the Diamondbacks last year and didn't pitch an inning in the major leagues. But he has come back strong this year, recording a save in his first opportunity against the Chicago Cubs.

"He bore the brunt of a lot of negative comments because of the trade," said Garagiola. "But he has a great attitude for a closer. He doesn't get too high and he doesn't get too low. So far this year, he's just taking it all in."

As for the Nationals, just before the last exhibition game of the season, Robinson officially named 23-year-old Chad Cordero as the closer, and so far he has responded, recording a save and a win in his first two appearances of the season.

While Lyon and Cordero have enjoyed initial success this season, a renovated RFK Stadium provides a great atmosphere

for hitting that could put both to the test.

"There's a lot of green in the backgrounds," said Nationals outfielder Brad Wilkerson, who hit for the cycle in the Nationals' second game of the season. "You can see the ball all the way in. It's like a beach ball."

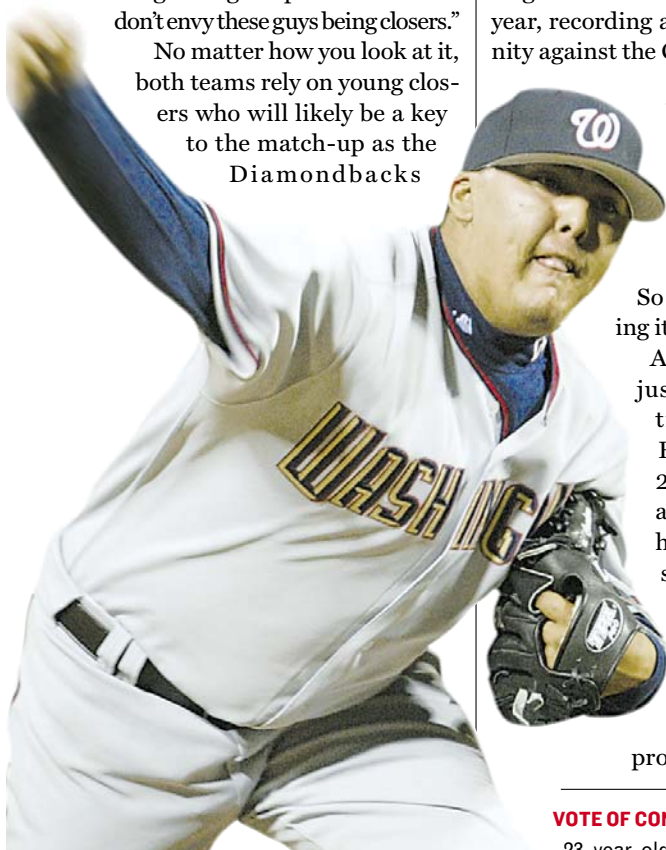
While the Arizona lineup centers on the heart of the order in left fielder Luis Gonzalez, third baseman Troy Glaus and right fielder Shawn Green, Garagiola says it's Craig Counsell and Royce Clayton who are really the key.



G-FORCE: Third baseman Troy Glaus has added power to the middle of Arizona's lineup this year.

"For us, it'll be how much Counsell and Clayton can get on at the top of the order, hitting 1-2, which sets up the middle of the order," said Garagiola. "In a perfect world, they're getting on base, making the pitcher throw a lot of pitches, taking a lot of his focus, so the big boys can do the damage. And then, it'll be how successful are we at getting those last eight or nine outs." **GARY KARTON**

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE: There was no looking for hanging chads when Frank Robinson named 23-year-old Chad Cordero the Washington Nationals closer, a role he is thriving in so far.



JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

Nationals Archive

Just as the 2005 Washington Nationals opened the season against Philadelphia, so did the 1924 Nationals—who would go on to win the city's only World Series.

With 27-year-old second baseman Bucky Harris making history as baseball's youngest manager ever, Walter Johnson got the Nationals—who became the Senators in 1957—off on the right track with a

4-0 victory on April 15. It was "The Big Train's" 104th career shutout, and one of his 14 opening day starts.

On hand for the occasion was President Calvin Coolidge, though he reportedly left after the second inning.

Washington's early success was short lived, though, as the Philadelphia took Game 2 with a 6-1 victory anchored by pitcher Ed Rommel's stel-



lar performance.

The rubber match of the series also went to manager Connie Mack's A's, who used an eighth inning double-steal to break a 3-3 tie. The Nats could not mount a late comeback and dropped the game 4-3.

Three games into the season, the Nats were down 1.5 games to the first-place Detroit Tigers with no one expecting the championship run that would come.

OPENING ACT: Walter Johnson started on opening day 14 times for Washington.



At least one fan will miss baseball in Montreal.

Continued from page 10

baseball for betting on games.

'91 | At age 44, Nolan Ryan throws his record seventh no-hitter.

'94 | Greed hits a new low when a players strike forces the cancellation of the World Series.

'95 | Cal Ripken plays in his 2,131st straight game, breaking Yankees great Lou Gehrig's record.

'95 | Baseball introduces the Wild Card into its playoff format. Baseball purist Bob Costas is outraged!

'98 | Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa both surpass Roger Maris' 1961 single-season record of 61 home runs. Sosa stops at 66 homers while McGwire hits 70.

'98 | Cal Ripken finally takes a day off after 2,632 consecutive games.

'01 | A curiously strong Barry Bonds sets a record by blasting 73 homers in one season.

'03 | Aaron "bleeping" Boone hits a game-winning home run for the Yankees in Game 7 of the ALCS against the Red Sox, ending Boston's best shot at a World Series title in years.

'04 | On his way to his seventh NL MVP, Barry Bonds joins Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron in the 700 home run club.

'04 | Down 3-0 to the Yankees in the ALCS, the Red Sox complete a miracle comeback over the Evil Empire and then beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

The Curse of the Bambino is lifted. Pigs fly. Hell freezes over. And Boston fans don't know what to believe in anymore.

'04 | Au revoir Les Expos. Bonjour Les Nationals.

BARRY BONDS: 703 homers, 7 MVPs, 1 steroid scandal.



Back in Business

The Diamondbacks aim to recover from a dismal 2004

TEXAS DID IT LAST YEAR when Alex Rodriguez bolted to New York.

Seattle did it three times after losing Ken Griffey Jr., Randy Johnson and Rodriguez.

This year it will be the Arizona Diamondbacks who are hoping to improve the team even though they lost their biggest star.

"Sometimes moving a star player enables you to improve your team at a number of other positions," said Arizona General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr. "We're hoping to be an example of that."

In fact, the trade of all-star pitcher Randy Johnson to the New York Yankees kicked off a set of moves that gave the Diamondbacks a completely new look from the team that lost 111 games last year — the worst record by a National League team in 40 years.

They received Javier Vazquez, pitcher Brad Hasley and catcher Dioner Navarro

in the trade for Johnson. They immediately sent Navarro to Los Angeles for right fielder Shawn Green.

"So by trading Randy, we acquired two-fifths of our rotation and a right fielder who could hit 40 home runs for us," said Garagiola, who wasn't done yet.

He signed free agent pitchers Russ Ortiz and Shawn Estes. Then he added three-quarters of a new infield with the signings of third baseman Troy Glaus, shortstop Royce Clayton and second baseman Craig Counsell. Finally, just days before spring training, he acquired center fielder Jose Cruz Jr. In the end, outfielder Luis Gonzalez was the only remaining member of the 2003 season's opening lineup.

Gonzalez, Glaus and Green are all coming



OLD MEETS NEW: Longtime Diamondbacks outfielder Luis Gonzalez is greeted at home plate by newcomer Troy Glaus.

off injury-plagued seasons. But if they can stay healthy, the G-Men, as they are sometimes called, are expected to add tremendous power to the middle of the lineup.

"I know I wouldn't want to face those three guys," said Estes. "Not the G-Men."

While Garagiola is optimistic that this year's team will contend for a division title,

The G-Men are expected to add tremendous power.

especially with San Francisco's Barry Bonds starting the season on the disabled list, he still has some concerns regarding injuries and the lack of an experienced bullpen. The Diamondbacks will rely on second-year pitcher Brandon Lyon to lead the effort.

Still, the Diamondbacks are a team accustomed to success. In just eight years of existence, the team has won three division titles, a National League pennant and, in 2001, a World Series.

"Overall we improved both the talent and the depth," said Garagiola of this year's line-up. "If you look at our team now, we have brought a balance back to the roster." **GARY KARTON**



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Washington Nationals | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	TB	SB	CS	HBP	SLG	AVG
Jamey Carroll	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	1.000	1.000
Tomo Ohka	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	.500	.500
Brad Wilkerson	6	25	2	11	2	1	1	3	2	18	0	1	50	.481	.440
Vinny Castilla	6	22	3	8	2	0	1	3	2	13	0	0	50	.417	.364
Tony Blanco	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	.333	.333
Jose Guillen	3	27	4	9	1	1	2	3	0	18	0	0	50	.333	.333
Livan Hernandez	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	.333	.333
Esteban Loaiza	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	.333	.333
Nick Johnson	6	18	1	5	1	0	0	2	6	6	0	0	50	.333	.278
J.J. Davis	4	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	50	2	1	0	50	.250	.250

ProFile Jose Guillen

AGE:28 BAT:R THROW:R HT:5-11 WT:190 YRS:8

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	136	485	77	151	31	86	1	95	.311	.569
'04	148	565	88	166	27	104	5	92	.294	.497
'05	6	23	4	8	2	3	0	4	.348	.696



Jose Vidro	6	26	4	6	2	0	1	3	0	11	0	0	0	.423	.231
Termel Sledge	4	9	2	2	0	0	1	3	2	5	1	0	0	.556	.222
Ryan Church	6	10	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	.500	.200
Brian Schneider	3	20	1	4	2	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	.300	.200
Christian Guzman	6	23	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	.174	.130
Gary Bennett	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Carlos Baerga	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Wil Cordero	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Zach Day	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
John Patterson	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000

ProFile

Brad Wilkerson

AGE:27 BAT:L THROW:L HT:6-0 WT:206 YRS:4

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	140	504	78	135	19	72	13	155	.268	.464
'04	160	572	112	146	32	67	13	152	.255	.498
'05	6	25	2	11	3	0	10	.440	.720	

- Led the majors in leadoff home runs last season with nine.
- Was the second player in club history to record 100 walks and 100 runs in the same season.
- Named Kentucky's Mr. Baseball in 1995.
- Was drafted in the 13th round by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1995.
- Made his Major League Baseball debut on July 12, 2001.



JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

National League | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B
Willy Taveras	4	16	3	9	1	0
Jeff Kent	5	19	9	10	3	0
Pat Burrell	5	24	5	12	3	0
Craig Biggio	4	20	3	9	3	0
Xavier Nady	5	18	6	8	1	1
Luis Gonzalez	5	18	6	8	0	0
Edgardo Alfonzo	5	18	5	8	1	0
Brad Wilkerson	5	25	2	11	2	1
Aaron Miles	4	16	4	7	3	0
Junior Spivey	4	23	5	10	2	0
Russell Branyon	3	14	1	6	2	0
Joe Randa	5	19	6	8	2	0
Todd Walker	5	19	3	8	2	0
Craig Wilson	5	17	0	7	0	0
Jose Reyes	5	28	6	11	3	0
Paul Lo Duca	5	23	2	9	1	0
Craig Counsell	5	18	4	7	0	0
Jose Valentin	5	13	4	5	0	1
Jasone Lane	4	19	2	7	2	0
Clint Barnes	4	19	5	7	2	0
Vinny Catilla	5	22	3	8	2	0
Jeromy Burnitz	5	25	5	9	3	0
David Eckstein	4	17	2	6	1	0
Mike Leiberthal	5	17	1	6	1	0
Pedro Feliz	5	20	5	7	1	0
Khalil Greene	5	20	4	7	2	0

ProFile

Jim Thome

AGE:34 BAT:L THROW:R HT:6-4 WT:246 YRS:14

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	159	578	111	154	47
'04	143	508	97	139	42
'05	6	21	6	7	0

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	131	0	182	.266	.573
'04	105	0	144	.274	.581
'05	3	0	7	.333	.429



HR	RBI	TB	SB	CS	SF	HBP	SLG	AVG
0	2	10	1	1	0	0	.625	.563
1	8	16	1	0	0	1	.842	.526
3	15	20	0	0	2	0	1.000	.500
1	4	8	2	0	0	0	.750	.450
3	9	20	0	0	0	0	1.111	.444
2	5	14	0	0	0	0	.778	.444
2	5	15	0	0	1	0	.833	.444
1	3	17	0	1	0	0	.720	.440
0	2	10	0	0	0	0	.625	.438
2	5	12	1	1	0	0	.783	.435
0	3	6	0	0	0	0	.571	.429
3	8	18	0	0	0	1	1.000	.421
0	3	10	1	0	0	0	.526	.421
0	2	7	1	0	0	1	.412	.412
1	1	13	1	1	0	0	.607	.393
0	2	8	0	0	0	0	.435	.391
0	1	7	1	0	0	0	.389	.389
2	8	13	1	0	1	0	1.000	.385
1	3	12	0	0	1	0	.632	.368
2	4	15	0	0	0	0	.789	.368
1	3	12	0	0	0	0	.591	.364
1	3	12	1	0	0	0	.600	.360
0	0	7	0	0	0	0	.412	.353
0	1	7	0	0	0	1	.412	.353
0	2	8	0	0	0	0	.400	.350
0	4	9	0	0	0	0	.450	.350

American League | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	CS	SF	HBP	SLG	AVG
Ichiro Suzuki	6	19	6	10	1	0	0	1	11	3	1	0	0	.579	.526
Mark Kotsay	6	20	2	10	0	0	1	2	13	0	0	0	0	.650	.500
Derek Jeter	6	19	7	9	1	0	1	2	14	2	1	0	2	.684	.474
David Ortiz	6	19	4	9	3	0	2	6	20	0	0	0	0	.947	.474
Carlos Guillen	6	18	5	8	1	0	0	1	11	0	0	0	1	.500	.444
Brandon Inge	6	16	4	7	1	1	1	4	14	0	0	0	0	.813	.438
Jorge Cantu	6	19	4	8	0	0	3	6	17	0	0	1	0	.895	.421
Tony Graffanino	4	17	4	7	2	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	.529	.412
Dmitri Young	6	20	8	8	1	1	3	6	23	0	0	0	1	1.000	.400
Shea Hillenbrand	6	20	6	8	1	0	1	3	12	0	0	0	0	.600	.400
Brian Roberts	6	20	4	8	1	1	2	5	22	0	0	0	0	.850	.400
Hideki Matsui	6	20	6	8	1	0	3	8	18	0	0	1	0	.900	.400
Paul Konerko	5	18	4	7	1	0	3	6	17	0	0	0	0	.944	.389
Adrian Beltre	6	21	5	8	1	0	0	6	9	0	0	0	0	.429	.381
Ronnie Belliard	6	16	4	6	2	0	1	3	12	1	0	1	0	.688	.375
Ivan Rodriguez	6	19	2	7	2	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	.474	.368
Miguel Tejada	6	19	3	7	1	0	0	4	10	0	0	0	1	.421	.368
Richard Hidalgo	6	19	5	7	1	0	2	6	14	0	0	0	0	.737	.368
David DeJesus	6	19	5	7	0	1	0	2	9	1	1	0	0	.474	.368
Garret Anderson	6	22	2	8	3	0	0	5	11	0	0	0	1	.500	.364
Benjie Molina	5	17	3	6	0	0	2	5	12	0	0	0	0	.706	.353
Jacque Jones	5	17	1	6	2	0	1	4	11	0	0	1	2	.647	.353
Jason Bartlett	4	17	2	6	2	0	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	.471	.353
Jason Varitek	5	15	2	5	1	0	2	3	14	0	0	0	0	.800	.333
Kevin Millar	6	15	1	5	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	.333	.333
Terrence Long	5	15	2	5	3	0	0	1	8	0	1	0	0	.533	.333
Tadahito Iguchi	4	15	2	5	2	0	0	1	7	1	0	1	0	.467	.333

ProFile

Sammy Sosa

AGE:36 BAT:R THROW:R HT:6-0 WT:230 YRS:16

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	137	517	99	144	40
'04	126	478	69	121	35
'05	5	20	0	5	0

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	103	0	143	.279	.553
'04	80	0	133	.253	.517
'05	0	1	4	.250	.300



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Washington Nationals | PITCHING**ProFile** Livan Hernandez

AGE: 30 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-2 WT: 245 YRS: 9

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	15	10	3.20	33	33	233.1	225	92	83	178
'04	11	15	3.60	35	35	255	235	105	102	186
'05	0	1	5.40	2	2	11.2	13	8	7	8



PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
Louis Ayala	0	0	0.00	4	0	0	0	0	3.2	0	0	0	0	0	2
T.J. Tucker	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	0	0	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Horgan	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	0	0	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	2
Chad Cordero	2	0	1.80	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	5	1	1	0	0	5
John Patterson	0	1	2.57	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	6	2	2	0	1	6
Tomo Ohka	0	1	4.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	5	3	3	0	1	2
Zach Day	0	0	4.76	1	1	0	0	0	5.2	5	3	3	0	1	3
Esteban Loaiza	0	0	5.40	1	1	0	0	0	6.2	5	4	4	1	3	4
Livan Hernandez	0	1	5.40	2	2	0	0	0	11.2	13	8	7	0	3	8
Joey Eischen	1	0	7.71	4	0	0	0	0	2.1	4	2	2	1	1	0
Antonio Osuna	0	0	42.43	4	0	0	0	0	2.1	9	11	11	0	7	0

**ProFile** Zach Day

AGE: 26 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-4 WT: 216 YRS: 3

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	9	8	4.18	23	23	131.1	132	64	61	61
'04	5	10	3.93	19	19	116.2	117	53	51	61
'05	0	0	4.77	1	1	5.2	5	3	3	3

ProFile**Joey Eischen**

AGE: 34 BAT: L THROW: L HT: 6-0 WT: 214 YRS: 8

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	2	2	3.06	70	0	53.0	57	27	18	40
'04	0	1	3.93	21	0	18.1	16	10	8	17
'05	1	0	7.71	4	0	2.1	9	2	2	0

- Made his Major League Baseball debut on June 19, 1994.
- Spent the first four months of 2003 on the disabled list with bone spurs in his ankle.
- Limited left handers to a .255 batting average in 2003.
- Has pitched in 249 career games.
- Has a career record of 10-7.
- Has three career saves.



JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

National League | PITCHING

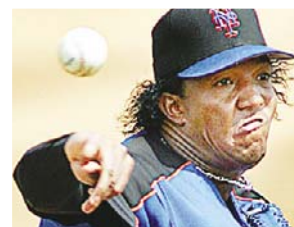
PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG
Jeff Weaver	1	0	0.00	1	1	0
Mark Redman	0	0	0.00	1	1	0
Josh Beckett	1	0	0.00	1	1	0
Jake Peavy	0	0	0.00	1	1	0
Aaron Harang	1	0	0.00	1	1	0
Dontrelle Willis	1	0	0.00	1	1	1
Jamey Wright	0	0	1.23	1	1	0
Roger Clemens	1	0	1.29	1	1	0
Chris Carpenter	1	0	1.29	1	1	0
John Thompson	1	0	1.29	1	1	0
Jerome Williams	0	0	1.29	1	1	0
Gavin Floyd	1	0	1.29	1	1	0
Brett Myers	0	0	1.35	1	1	0
Josh Fogg	1	0	1.42	1	1	0
Mike Hampton	0	0	1.50	1	1	0
Andy Pettitte	0	0	1.50	1	1	0
Jason Marquis	0	0	1.50	1	1	0
Al Leiter	0	0	1.59	1	1	0
Cory Lidle	0	0	1.69	1	1	0
Odalis Perez	1	0	1.80	1	1	0
Tim Hudson	1	0	1.80	1	1	0
Ramon Ortiz	0	0	1.80	1	1	0
Chad Cordero	2	0	1.80	3	0	0
Byung-Hyun Kim	0	0	2.25	2	0	0
Carlos Zambrano	1	0	2.25	2	0	0
Jason Schmidt	1	0	2.57	1	1	0

ProFile**Pedro Martinez**

AGE: 33 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 5-11 WT: 180 YRS: 13

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	14	4	2.22	29	29
'04	16	9	3.90	33	33
'05	1	0	2.40	2	2

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	186	147	52	46	206
'04	217	193	99	94	227
'05	15	5	4	4	21



SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
0	0	8.0	5	0	0	0	1	2
0	0	6.0	4	0	0	0	1	3
0	0	6.0	2	0	0	0	3	6
0	0	6.2	4	0	0	0	2	10
0	0	6.1	1	0	0	0	3	5
1	0	9.0	5	0	0	0	1	3
0	0	7.1	3	1	1	0	4	3
0	0	7.0	5	1	1	0	0	9
0	0	7.0	4	1	1	0	0	2
0	0	7.0	8	1	1	0	0	5
0	0	7.0	5	1	1	0	1	5
0	0	7.0	3	1	1	1	0	2
0	0	6.2	7	2	1	0	1	7
0	0	6.1	4	1	1	0	1	5
0	0	6.0	7	1	1	0	3	2
0	0	6.0	4	1	1	0	0	3
0	0	6.0	9	1	1	0	1	4
0	0	5.2	5	1	1	1	1	3
0	0	5.1	5	2	1	1	3	1
0	0	5.0	6	1	1	0	3	2
0	0	5.0	6	1	1	0	4	2
0	0	5.0	5	1	1	0	3	6
0	0	5.0	5	1	1	0	0	5
0	0	4.0	1	1	1	0	3	1
0	0	12.0	8	3	3	0	6	14
0	0	7.0	4	2	2	0	2	9

American League | PITCHING

PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
Tanyon Sturtze	0	0	0.00	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	4	0	0	0	1	5
R. Betancourt	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	0	0	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Jamie Moyer	1	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	5.2	5	1	0	1	0	4
Kevin Millwood	0	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	4	0	0	0	2	1
Jason Johnson	1	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	6.2	5	0	0	0	1	4
J. Washburn	0	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	7	0	0	1	0	5
Rodrigo Lopez	1	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	7	0	0	0	1	2
Mark Buehrle	1	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	8.0	2	0	0	0	1	5
Kirk Saarloes	1	0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	1	0	0	2	1	2
Denny Bautista	1	0	1.13	1	1	0	0	0	8.0	3	1	1	0	0	8
O. Hernandez	1	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	6	1	1	1	0	5
Carlos Silva	1	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	9	1	1	0	0	0
Erik Bedard	0	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	3	1	1	1	1	5
R. Hernandez	1	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	5	1	1	0	3	3
Nate Robertson	0	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	4	2	1	0	2	4
J. Bonderman	1	0	1.29	1	1	0	0	0	7.0	6	1	1	0	2	7
Bartolo Colon	1	0	1.35	1	1	0	0	0	6.2	6	1	1	0	4	5
W. Ledeza	1	0	1.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	7	1	1	0	0	3
Kenny Rogers	0	0	1.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	5	1	1	0	2	1
Josh Towers	0	0	1.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	4	1	1	0	0	6
Jose Contreras	0	0	1.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	4	1	1	0	2	4
Danny Haren	0	0	1.50	1	1	0	0	0	6.0	3	1	1	1	3	6
Scott Kazmir	0	0	1.80	1	1	0	0	0	5.0	3	1	1	0	2	2
Gustavo Chacin	1	0	1.80	1	1	0	0	0	5.0	3	1	1	0	1	3
Ryan Franklin	0	0	2.25	2	0	0	0	0	4.0	3	1	1	0	1	0
Tim Wakefield	0	0	2.70	1	1	0	0	0	6.2	3	2	2	0	2	4
M. Hendrickson	0	0	2.70	1	1	0	0	0	6.2	6	3	2	0	1	1

ProFile**Roy Halladay**

AGE: 27 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-6 WT: 225 YRS: 7

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	22	7	3.25	36	36
'04	8	8	4.20	21	21
'05	1	0	4.85	2	2

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	266	253	111	96	204
'04	133	140	66	62	95
'05	13	16	7	7	9

**(Nats Notes)**

The 1994 players strike that wiped out the last two-thirds of the season, including the World Series, is remembered by most fans as a tragic moment in the history of baseball. But in truth, it might have been the most significant in a series of events that brought the Expos to Washington. >>

The Strike That Sent Baseball to D.C.

"The team would still be in Montreal right now if it weren't for the strike," said reporter Marc Antoine Godin, who covered the Expos for La Presse Daily in Montreal.

Godin has an excellent point. Through 114 games of the strike-shortened season, the Expos were 34 games over .500 with a 74-40 record. As of Aug. 11, they had jumped out to a six-game lead in the National League East and appeared poised to make a run at the championship. Then came the strike. Suddenly the season was over and dramatic changes in the economics of baseball made it nearly impossible for the Expos to compete in the following years.

"The strike really destroyed the franchise," said Godin. "That 1994 team was built to go to the World Series. It had great players in [Marquis] Grissom, [Larry] Walker, [Moises] Alou, [Tim] Wetland, and Pedro [Martinez]. If there hadn't been a strike, everything would have been different. There's no doubt that the decisions that were made by the owners after the strike really

"The team would still be in Montreal if it weren't for the strike."

destroyed the franchise."

Those decisions included unloading top talent. In 1995 the Expos traded many core players and finished in last place for only the second time since 1977. The following year, Pedro Martinez went 17-4 with a 1.90 ERA en route to the National League Cy Young Award. He was promptly traded to the Boston Red Sox.

The Expos struggled over the next decade, which frustrated the fan base. Finally, on Sept. 29, 2004, Commissioner Bud Selig announced the team's official relocation to Washington, D.C.

And to think it may have all started with a strike.

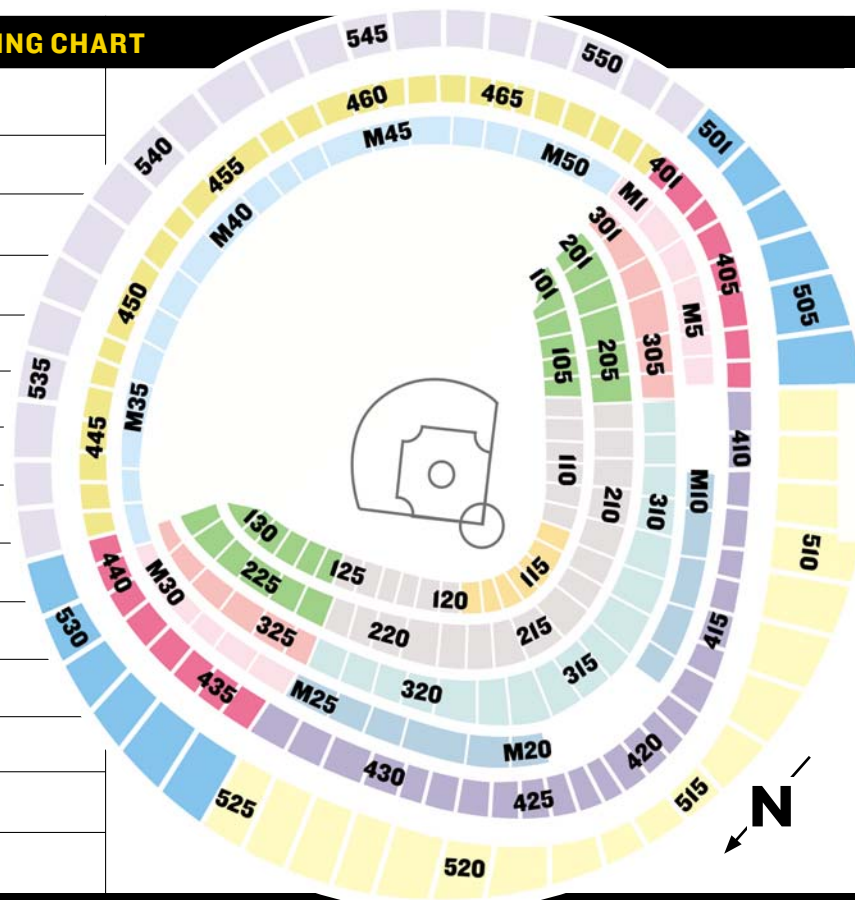
GARY KARTON

MLB | STANDINGS

	TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	LIO
N.L. EAST	Atlanta	04	02	.667	--	2-1	2-1	16	22	Lost 1	4-1
	Washington	03	03	.500	1	0-0	3-3	19	34	Lost 1	3-2
	Philadelphia	03	03	.500	1	1-2	2-1	43	30	Won 2	2-3
	Florida	03	03	.500	1	3-3	0-0	31	9	Won 1	2-3
	N.Y. Mets	01	05	.167	3	0-0	1-5	22	32	Won 1	0-5
N.L. CENTRAL	Houston	04	01	.800	--	4-1	0-0	19	15	Won 4	3-1
	Milwaukee	03	02	.600	1	0-0	3-2	30	17	Lost 2	3-1
	Chicago Cubs	03	03	.500	1.5	2-1	1-2	36	30	Won 2	2-3
	Cincinnati	03	03	.500	1.5	3-0	0-3	29	24	Lost 3	3-2
	St. Louis	02	03	.400	2	1-2	1-1	22	35	Lost 2	2-2
N.L. WEST	Pittsburgh	01	04	.200	3	0-2	1-2	10	33	Lost 1	1-4
	L.A. Dodgers	04	01	.800	--	0-0	4-1	38	25	Won 4	4-1
	San Francisco	04	02	.667	.5	4-2	0-0	33	32	Won 3	3-2
	San Diego	03	02	.600	1	2-1	1-1	38	24	Won 1	3-2
	Arizona	02	03	.400	2	2-3	0-0	36	43	Lost 2	2-3
A.L. EAST	Colorado	01	04	.200	3	1-1	0-3	32	49	Lost 4	1-3
	Toronto	04	02	.667	--	2-1	2-1	37	27	Won 2	3-2
	Tampa Bay	03	03	.500	1	3-3	0-0	28	26	Lost 1	3-2
	Baltimore	03	03	.500	1	1-2	2-1	29	29	Won 1	2-3
	N.Y. Yankees	03	03	.500	1	3-3	0-0	31	36	Lost 1	3-2
A.L. CENTRAL	Boston	02	04	.333	2	0-0	2-4	26	37	Lost 2	2-3
	Chicago W. Sox	04	01	.800	--	2-1	2-0	23	20	Won 2	4-1
	Detroit	03	03	.500	1.5	3-3	0-0	40	24	Lost 1	3-2
	Cleveland	03	03	.500	1.5	0-0	3-3	26	30	Won 1	2-3
	Kansas City	03	03	.500	1.5	0-0	3-3	29	33	Won 1	2-3
A.L. WEST	Minnesota	02	03	.400	2	0-2	2-1	19	23	Lost 2	2-3
	L.A. Angels	03	03	.500	--	3-3	0-0	25	28	Lost 1	3-2
	Oakland	03	03	.500	--	0-0	3-3	24	20	Won 1	2-3
	Seattle	02	03	.400	.5	2-3	0-0	25	26	Lost 1	2-3
	Texas	02	02	.400	.5	0-0	2-3	24	27	Won 1	2-3

RFK Stadium | SEATING CHART

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- Outfield Loge Box
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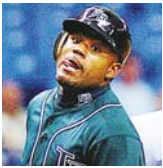


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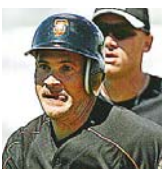
American League | HITTING

RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
		
R. Sexson, SEA, 9 H. Matsui, NYY, 8 E. Hinske, TOR, 8 G. Zaun, TOR, 8 M. Sweeney, KC, 7	D. Young, DET, 3 H. Matsui, NYY, 3 P. Konerko, CHW, 3 J. Cantu, TB, 3 B. Roberts, BAL, 3	C. Crawford, TB, 4 I. Suzuki, SEA, 3 J. Lugo, TB, 3 S. Podsednik, CHW, 3 S. Finley, LAA, 2

American League | PITCHING

WINS	STRIKE OUTS	SAVES
		
R. Lopez, BAL, 2 T. Sturtze, NY, 1 J. Bonderman, DET, 1 J. Davis, CLE, 1 B. Colon, LAA, 1	J. Bonderman, DET, 11 M. Clement, BOS, 10 R. Lopez, BAL, 10 R. Johnson, NYY, 10 J. Moyer, SEA, 9	S. Takatsu, CHW, 2 M. Batista, TOR, 2 M. Rivera, NYY, 1 F. Cordero, TEX, 1 E. Guardado, SEA, 1

National League | HITTING

RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
		
P. Burrell, PHI, 15 X. Nady, SD, 10 T. Glaus, ARI, 8 J. Kent, LAD, 8 J. Randa, CIN, 8	T. Glaus, ARI, 4 J. Randa, CIN, 3 X. Nady, SD, 3 L. Gonzalez, ARI, 2 R. Sanders, STL, 2	O. Vizquel, SF, 4 J. Rollins, PHI, 2 B. Clark, MIL, 2 C. Biggio, HOU, 2 K. Matsui, NYM, 2

National League | PITCHING

WINS	STRIKE OUTS	SAVES
		
J. Beckett, FLA, 2 A. Bernero, ATL, 2 C. Cordero, WAS, 2 J. Lieber, PHI, 2 J. Schmidt, SF, 2	P. Martinez, NYM, 21 J. Beckett, FLA, 17 J. Smoltz, ATL, 16 J. Schmidt, SF, 16 C. Zambrano, CHC, 14	B. Lidge, HOU, 3 D. Kolb, ATL, 3 I. Sriringhausen, STL, 2 A. Benitez, SF, 2 J. Mesa, PIT, 1

Cap-ital City

Unlikely as it may sound, Anthony Williams started a fashion trend last year — and it had nothing to do with neckwear.

At a Sept. 29 press conference, Washington's bow tie-wearing mayor hoisted a home plate above his head and declared that baseball was coming back to the nation's capital after a 33-year absence. On his head, somewhat awkwardly, sat a bright red cap bearing a big white "W."

These days you can't hop a ride on the Metro without seeing at least one head covered with a Washington Nationals cap. Usually there's a handful.

The phenomenon is remarkable considering how split the city was, and continues to be, over the building of a new stadium — and given the relative anonymity of the Nationals players.

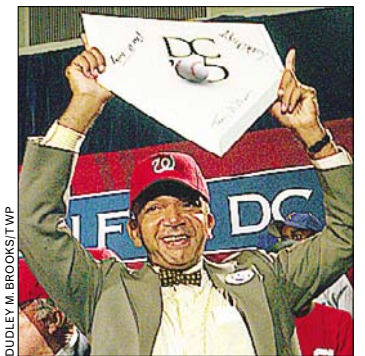
The average fan probably couldn't name a single player other than Brad Wilkerson or Liván Hernández. But it doesn't seem to matter. The city had embraced the Nationals even before the grass took root at RFK.

For years, the common perception among baseball know-it-alls was that Washington isn't a baseball town. During the agonizingly long wait for the sport to return, critics took pleasure in noting how the city managed to lose two teams in one decade.

Maybe D.C. had no appetite for America's pastime back then, but it sure seems to now.

The Nationals sold 20,000 season tickets in the blink of an eye — and without the benefit of mass marketing, since they didn't have a television deal until just days before the April 4 season opener.

Then 25,000 fans trekked out



to RFK on a cold, gloomy April 3 to watch an exhibition game in which the main objective was to keep the starters from getting hurt.

And don't think it's a coincidence that the Orioles drew the smallest crowd in Camden Yards history the first week Washington had the Nationals to root for.

There are plenty of theories for why the Nats are so popular right now, but one seems to make more sense than all the others. Washingtonians are proud to have a team — one without the word "Baltimore" in its name.

The Nationals belong to the District, and the city's energy has already transformed a moribund Expos franchise into an organization with hope.

That's what makes the latest rumor that MLB plans to move the team again at the end of the year so preposterous. It's impossible to ignore that the franchise is better off in Washington and that the city is better for having the Nats.

D.C. seems to have just the right cap size for this team. And who knows? Maybe bow ties will catch on too. MATT SWENSON

Nationals Agenda

2005 SCHEDULE

→ Home Games Shaded

→ 76th Annual All Star Game, July 12 at Comerica Park, Detroit

May

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NYM	LAD	LAD	LAD	SF	SF	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SF	AZ	AZ	AZ	CHC	CHC	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CHC	MIL	MIL	MIL	TOR	TOR	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
TOR	CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL	
29	30	31				
STL	ATL	ATL				

June

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FLA	OAK	OAK	OAK	SEA	SEA	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SEA	LAA	LAA	LAA	TEX	TEX	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
TEX	PIT	PIT	PIT	TOR	TOR	
26	27	28	29	30		
TOR	PIT	PIT	PIT			

August

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LAD	LAD	LAD	SD	SD
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SD		HOU	HOU	HOU	COL	COL
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
COL	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	NYM	NYM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NYM	CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL	
28	29	30	31			
STL	ATL	ATL	ATL			

September

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
				ATL	PHI	PHI
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PHI	FLA	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ATL	NYM	NYM	NYM	SD	SD	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SD	SF	SF	SF	NYM	NYM	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NYM	FLA	FLA	FLA	PHI		

April

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	PHI		PHI	PHI	FLA	FLA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
FLA	ATL	ATL	ATL	AZ		AZ
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AZ	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL	NYM	NYM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NYM	PHI	PHI	PHI		NYM	NYM

July

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
					CHC	CHC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CHC	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM	PHI	PHI
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
PHI					MIL	MIL
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MIL	COL	COL	COL	HOU	HOU	HOU
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOU		ATL	ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
31	FLA					

October

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
						PHI
2						
PHI						



Schedule subject to change

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